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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/613,288	07/03/2003	John Cummings	64730.13	4004

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EXAMINER
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TRAN, HANH VAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3637

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/613,288

Applicant(s)

CUMMINGS, JOHN

Examiner

Hanh V. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 10-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/2/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This is the First Office Action on the Merits from the examiner in charge of this application.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 4, 7, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 1,645,470 to Alheit.

- Alheit discloses a display case comprising all the elements recited in the above listed claims including, such as shown in Fig 1, a first section including a top wall, a bottom wall and a back wall connected between said top and bottom walls, said bottom wall being formed with a bracket having a first arm and a second arm connected to said first arm, a space being formed between said bottom wall and said second arm which is adapted to receive a shelf; a second section including a first side wall, a second side wall and a front wall connected between said first and second side walls, said second section being joined with said first section so that said first and second side walls of said second section abut said back wall of said first section and said top and bottom walls of said first section contact said front wall and said first and second side walls of said second section to form a closed interior, a mounting device insertable through said second arm of said first section, said mounting device being adapted to contact a shelf

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received within said space between said bottom wall and said second arm to secure said first and second sections to the shelf; wherein said second arm of said bracket is substantially parallel to said bottom wall, said mounting device is a thumb screw which extends through said second arm of said bracket and is adapted to engage the bottom of a shelf, at least said first and second side wall, said top wall and said front wall are formed of a transparent material to permit viewing of said closed interior.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

6. Claims 2-3, 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alheit in view of USP 4,002,287 to Saveth.

Alheit discloses all the elements as discussed above except for (1) the top wall, the bottom wall and the back wall of the first section are permanently interconnected to form a one-piece structure, (2) the first side wall, the second side wall and the front wall

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of the second section are permanently interconnected to form a one-piece structure, (3) said top wall of the first section being formed with an upper lip extending toward the bottom wall and said bottom wall of the first section being formed with a lower lip extending toward and in alignment with the upper lip, the front wall of the second section contacting the upper lip of the top wall and the lower lip of the bottom wall to maintain the first and second sections in engagement with one another.

Saveth teaches the idea of forming a case comprising, such as shown in Figs 9-10, (1) a first section having the top wall, the bottom wall and the back wall being permanently interconnected to form a one-piece structure, (2) a second section having the first side wall, the second side wall and the front wall being permanently interconnected to form a one-piece structure, (3) said top wall of the first section being formed with an upper lip extending toward the bottom wall and said bottom wall of the first section being formed with a lower lip extending toward and in alignment with the upper lip, the front wall of the second section contacting the upper lip of the top wall and the lower lip of the bottom wall to maintain the first and second sections in engagement with one another; wherein the structure allows easy forming of a case without fasteners. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify the structure of Alheit by having (1) the top wall, the bottom wall and the back wall of the first section being permanently interconnected to form a one-piece structure, (2) the first side wall, the second side wall and the front wall of the second section being permanently interconnected to form a one-piece structure, (3) said top wall of the first section being formed with an upper lip extending toward the bottom wall and said bottom wall of the first section being formed

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with a lower lip extending toward and in alignment with the upper lip, the front wall of the second section contacting the upper lip of the top wall and the lower lip of the bottom wall to maintain the first and second sections in engagement with one another in order to allow easy forming of a case without fasteners, as taught by Saveth, since both teach alternate conventional casing structure, used for the same intended purpose of storing article, thereby providing structure as claimed.

7. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alheit in view of US2003/0057809 to House, II et al.

Alheit discloses all the elements as discussed above except for a mirror is mounted to the back wall of the first section.

House, II et al teaches that it is well known in the art to provide a display case with mirror in the interior in order to present the article housed therein from various angles. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify the structure of Alheit by having a mirror mounted to the back wall of the first section in order to present article housed therein from various angles, as taught by House, II et al, since both teach alternate conventional display case structure, used for the same intended purpose of displaying articles therein, thereby providing structure as claimed.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

8. Claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. Claims 10-14 are allowed.

***Conclusion***


10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Compton et al, Stuart, Frishman, Moore, Bloomfield, Asplund, Casper, Millice, and Trett all show structures similar to various elements of applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh V. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-6868. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, and alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HVT  
September 30, 2005

  
**Hanh V. Tran**  
**Art Unit 3637**